

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. *(Previously Presented)* A loudspeaker apparatus comprising:

a loudspeaker array comprising a plurality of loudspeaker elements arranged in a plurality of stacked horizontal rows; and

an audio signal processing unit that drives a plurality of loudspeaker blocks including at least a center-channel loudspeaker block, a front left-channel loudspeaker block, and a front right-channel loudspeaker block each composed of a group of loudspeaker elements in the loudspeaker array, respectively with a plurality of audio signals including at least a front left-channel signal, a front right-channel signal, and a center-channel signal,

wherein the center-channel loudspeaker block includes at least all of the loudspeaker elements in one of the horizontal row.

2. *(Canceled)*

3. *(Previously Presented)* The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the loudspeaker elements contained in one of the rows of one of the loudspeaker blocks are also part of another of the loudspeaker blocks.

4. *(Previously Presented)* The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the loudspeaker blocks are respectively constructed as separate units, and the loudspeaker array is composed of the units that are stacked.

5. *(Previously Presented)* The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the loudspeaker blocks also include a loudspeaker block for a high range and a loudspeaker block for a low range for each of the left and right channel signals, and

a width of the loudspeaker block for the high range signal for each of the left and right channel signals is smaller than a width of the loudspeaker block for the low range signal for each of the left and right channel signals.

6. *(Canceled)*

7. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the loudspeaker block is configured so that output sound pressure of the respective loudspeaker rows becomes substantially uniform.

8. (*Previously Presented*) A loudspeaker apparatus comprising:

a loudspeaker array comprising a plurality of loudspeaker elements arranged in a plurality of stacked horizontal rows; and

an audio signal processing unit that divides an audio signal into a plurality of frequency band signals, including a high frequency range signal and a low frequency range signal,

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives a first loudspeaker block composed of less than all of the speaker elements in each of at least two rows among the plurality of stacked horizontal rows of loudspeakers elements with the high frequency range signal, and

wherein the audio signal processing unit drives a second loudspeaker block composed of all of the loudspeaker elements in a single horizontal row among the plurality of stacked horizontal rows.

9. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from each other so that vertically adjacent loudspeaker elements in the adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from one another.

10. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 8, wherein adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from each other so that vertically adjacent loudspeaker elements in the adjacent stacked horizontal rows are horizontally offset from one another.

11. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of loudspeaker blocks further include a rear left-channel loudspeaker block and a rear right-channel loudspeaker block, each also composed of a group of loudspeaker elements in the loudspeaker array, respectively with the plurality of audio signals including a rear left-channel signal and a rear right-channel signal.

12. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the plurality of stacked horizontal rows are composed of first, second, third, fourth, and fifth stacked horizontal rows,

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row,

the front right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the third horizontal row,

the rear left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the fourth horizontal row, and

the rear right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the fifth horizontal row.

13. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the loudspeaker elements are stacked top to bottom from the first to fifth horizontal rows.

14. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the plurality of horizontal rows are composed of first and second stacked horizontal rows,

the first horizontal row includes the front left-channel loudspeaker block, a first part of the center-channel loudspeaker block, and the rear left-channel loudspeaker block, and

the second horizontal row includes the front-right channel loudspeaker block, a second part the center-channel loudspeaker block, and the rear right-channel loudspeaker block.

15. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the rear left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the front right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row, and

the rear right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row.

16. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the plurality of stacked horizontal rows are composed of first, second, and third stacked horizontal rows,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row,

the front right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the third horizontal row,

the rear left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows, and

the rear right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second and third horizontal rows.

17. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of stacked horizontal rows are composed of first, second, and third stacked horizontal rows,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows,

the front right-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second and third horizontal rows, and

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row, a left half of one of the first or third horizontal row, and right half of the other of the first or third horizontal row.

18. (*Currently Amended*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the audio signal is composed of a left-channel signal, a center-channel signal, and a right-channel signal,

the processing unit divides each of the left-channel and right-channel signals into the high frequency range signal and the low frequency range signal,

the first loudspeaker block is composed of a left half of the at least two horizontal rows for the high frequency range signal of the left-channel signal,

the second loudspeaker block is composed of one of the at least two horizontal rows for the low frequency range signal of the left-channel signal, and

further including:

a third loudspeaker block composed of a right half of the at least two horizontal rows for the high frequency range signal of the right-channel signal,

a fourth loudspeaker block composed of the other of the at least two rows for the low frequency range signal of the right-channel signal, and

a fifth loudspeaker block composed of the at least two horizontal rows for the center-channel signal.

19. (*Withdrawn*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the audio signal is composed of a left-channel signal, a center-channel signal, and a right-channel signal,

the processing unit divides each of the left-channel and right-channel signals into the high frequency range signal and the low frequency range signal,

the plurality of stacked horizontal rows of loudspeakers elements is composed of first, second, and third stacked horizontal rows,

the first loudspeaker block is composed of a left half of the first and second horizontal rows for the high frequency range signal of the left-channel signal,

the second loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row for the low frequency range signal of the left-channel signal, and

further including:

a third loudspeaker block composed of a right half of the second and third horizontal rows for the high frequency range signal of the right-channel signal,

a fourth loudspeaker block composed of the third row for the low frequency range signal of the right-channel signal, and

a fifth loudspeaker block composed of the second horizontal row for the center-channel signal.

20. (*Previously Presented*) The loudspeaker apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of horizontal rows of the loudspeaker elements are composed of first and second stacked horizontal rows,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first horizontal row,

the front left-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the second horizontal row, and

the center-channel loudspeaker block is composed of the first and second horizontal rows.